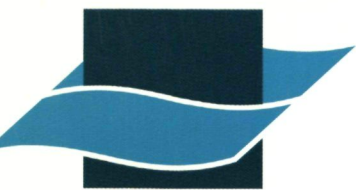


VLIZ



Flanders
Marine Institute

*Vlaams Instituut
voor de Zee*



VLIZ

Objectives

The Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) supports the marine scientific research in Flanders and hereby integrates a number of important functional and operational tasks:

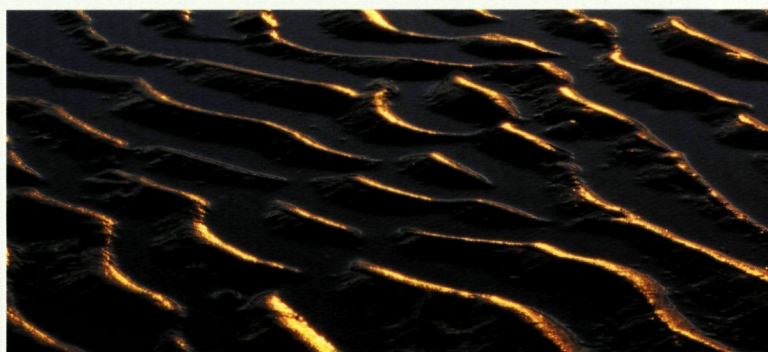
- ▶ to create an **information and coordination centre** for marine, coastal, and estuarine scientific research in Flanders. VLIZ functions as a coordination platform for policymaking, for federal and international cooperation and for logistic support of marine research.
- ▶ to promote Flanders with regard to marine scientific research. VLIZ provides information from and to the international community and serves as an **international contact point** for marine research in Flanders.
- ▶ to set up the **Flanders Marine Data Centre**. The centre gathers various kinds of data, implements international standards and redistributes data nationally and internationally.
- ▶ to establish an **oceanographic platform**. VLIZ puts the vessel "Zeeleeuw" (Sea lion) at the disposal of researchers and is responsible for the management, maintenance, and utilisation of the shared research equipment and infrastructure.
- ▶ to carry out other **science-supporting activities**, with emphasis on popularisation and public awareness building. VLIZ manages a multimedia library devoted to marine sciences and the marine and coastal environment.
- ▶ to **offer advice** or submit proposals upon request of governmental authorities or at its own initiative. VLIZ constitutes a contact point for different ad hoc assignments of the Ministry of Flanders.

A forum that welcomes everyone

VLIZ wants to give exposure to the marine and coastal scientific research of Flanders, whereby coordination and dissemination of information play key roles. It is an interface between the Flemish universities, the scientific institutes and governmental authorities. The aims are to help identify the policy needs, make scientific data accessible, transfer knowledge and provide advice whenever required. VLIZ acts as an intermediary for national and international cooperation, organises international symposia, grants scientific awards, disseminates publications, and maintains an integrated website. Finally the institute wants to inform the public at large and help with training and education in marine sciences and keeps the media informed.

The sea has a forum

VLIZ was established for everyone who is or feels closely involved with marine and coastal scientific research in Flanders. Everyone does not only mean institutes and academics, but also governmental authorities and international organisations, enterprises, media, and private individuals. They all have one thing in common: a passion for the sea. A passion that is shared by VLIZ.



VLIZ develops a well-functioning marine scientific multimedia library, primarily catering to marine researchers, but also meeting the documentation needs of the interested public at large. The core of the holdings consists of the previously established "Halewyck" library. All marine science disciplines are covered in the collection comprising publications from all continents that are scarcely available in other libraries.

**A forum
that provides
logistic
support**

The "Zeeleeuw" (a pilot vessel of the Fleet Division of the Waterways and Marine Affairs Administration) has been converted into a multi-functional ship that is managed by VLIZ and put at the disposal of marine research teams. VLIZ also maintains and manages the shared research equipment and infrastructure. Investment priorities are: equipment for navigation, communication, continuous measurements and data acquisition, sampling, and laboratory facilities on board. Research facilities and storage space for samples and heavy oceanographic equipment are also available on shore.





Flanders Marine Institute

Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee

Marine scientific research in Flanders

Marine scientific research in Flanders is carried out by the six Flemish universities, the research institutes and departments of the Flemish and federal authorities, and to a lesser extent by private enterprises. The major broad disciplines covered are: biology, earth sciences, chemistry, physics, aquaculture and fisheries, engineering, and maritime affairs.

Most research teams are involved in multidisciplinary international projects, encompassing marine, coastal, estuarine, and deep-sea environments worldwide.

Key-roles of VLIZ are to offer logistic support to the various parties, promote their acquired expertise internationally, and serve as an interface between the scientific community, public authorities, and the public at large.



The Flanders Marine Data Centre

The objectives of the Flanders Marine Data Centre are:

- to provide data and information to researchers, public authorities and other interested parties, in a suitable and prompt way;
- to maximally centralise the nationally and internationally available data of research groups and governmental authorities;
- to develop and maintain databases for interdisciplinary research, according to the established international standards;
- to integrate various kinds of data, and perform consistency and quality controls.

The speed and efficiency, with which users can identify, locate, exchange, and use marine data and information, are of major concern to render quality-services. Whenever possible, the information will be disseminated through the World Wide Web. For specific target groups, data sets can be provided on CD-ROM or DVD.

In a first phase, the Data Centre will develop an extensive network of researchers, governmental authorities, and other parties managing data and information and/or disposing of marine scientific expertise. The coordinates of the partners as well as meta-information on the data sets they manage and the projects they are involved in, will be made available on the VLIZ website.

The interests of the Data Centre are primarily determined by those of the users. Services will not be restricted to data pertaining to the Flemish coast and Belgian continental shelf. Special attention, however, will be given to the Southern Bight of the North Sea. The Data Centre will actively seek information on this region, and try to integrate various data sets.

The data- and information management expertise of VLIZ can be made available to research groups, to jointly develop and disseminate products. Data management of interdisciplinary research projects and educational programmes are also being considered.

To meet these objectives, data-exchange agreements will be made with relevant partners, in the first instance with research teams of the Flemish universities, research institutes, and governmental departments with similar objectives. International activities are undertaken through close collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. The Data Centre is the National Oceanographic Data Centre (NODC) for Flanders, and is actively involved in several initiatives of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE).

What does VLIZ stand for?



Dr. Jan Mees
Director

The Flanders Marine Institute (in Dutch: Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee – VLIZ) was founded in April 1999 by the Government of Flanders, the Province of West Flanders and the Fund for Scientific Research – Flanders. It is an autonomous institute with the legal status of a non-profit association and is financially supported by the Ministry of Flanders and the Province of West Flanders. The organisational frame and objectives of VLIZ are stipulated in its statutes and five-yearly management agreements.

How is VLIZ organised?

The **General Assembly** of the non-profit association VLIZ, consists of representatives of the Ministry of Flanders, of the Province of West Flanders, and of the Fund for Scientific Research – Flanders. It is the highest legal body and defines the general policies of VLIZ.

The Governor of the Province of West Flanders presides the **Board of Directors** that comprises academics from Flemish

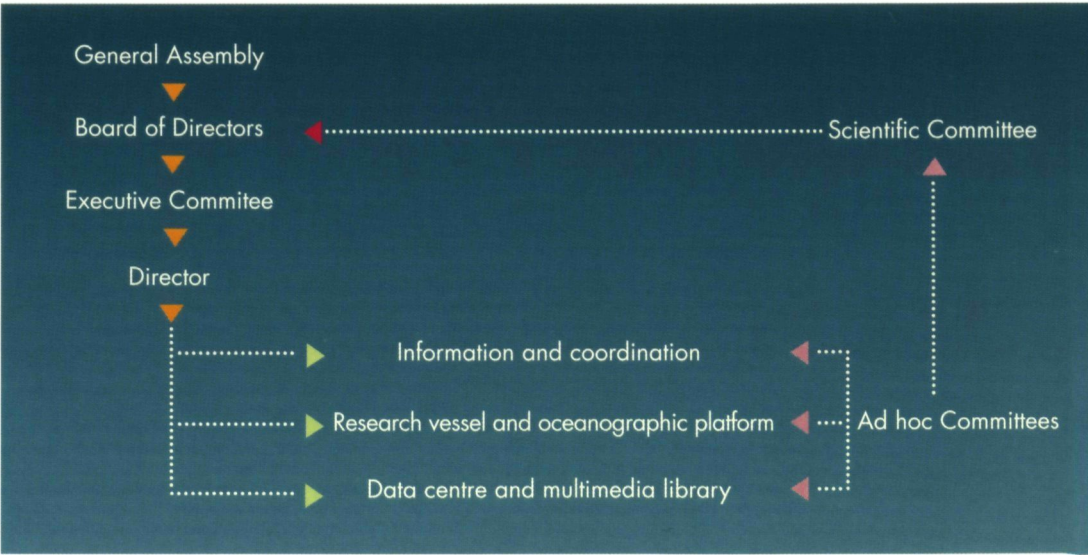
universities, representatives of governmental authorities, and delegates from the marine-related economic sector. The Board has decision-making responsibilities with regard to the functional and operational management of VLIZ and reports to the General Assembly.

The daily running of VLIZ is taken care of by the **Director** and the **Executive Committee** according to the Board's decisions.

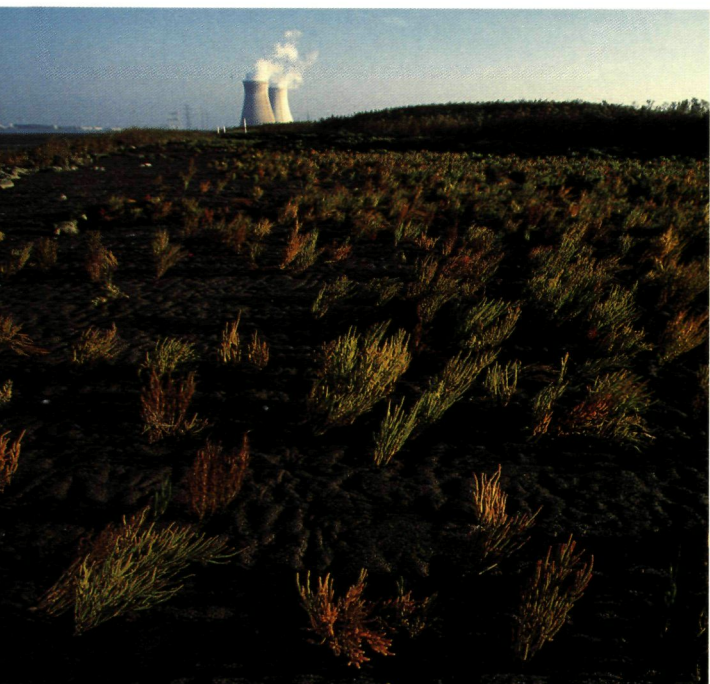
The **Scientific Committee** advises the Board in scientific matters. Its constitution reflects the multidisciplinary marine scientific community of Flanders and is made up of marine researchers from the six Flemish universities, from Flemish and federal research centres, and of representatives from administrative departments concerned.

Whenever appropriate, **Ad hoc Committees** can be installed to treat specific matters and make recommendations.

Organisation chart

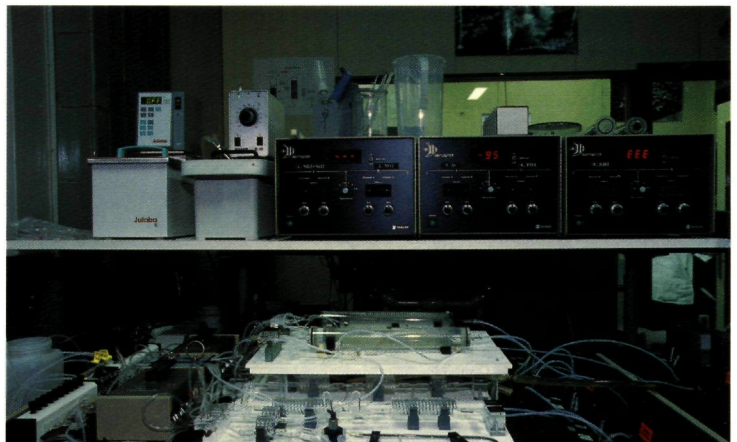


Flanders Marine Institute
Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee vzw
Victorialaan 3, B-8400 Oostende, Belgium
Tel. +32-[0]59/34 21 30
Fax +32-[0]59/34 21 31
E-mail: info@vliz.be
Website: <http://www.vliz.be>



A forum that gathers and disseminates data

VLIZ hosts the Flanders Marine Data Centre that acquires and processes oceanographic data, and delivers them according to the users' needs. It integrates various types of data, checks their consistency, and performs the quality control. To realise the objectives, agreements about data exchange are made with partners at the regional, federal and international level. VLIZ actively participates in international networks, primarily through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.





Would you like more information?



Flanders is the northern state within the federal kingdom of Belgium and borders the North Sea. VLIZ is located in the seaside resort Oostende that can easily be reached by car, train, ferry, and airplane (via Brussels National Airport). More detailed information is available on the VLIZ website: <http://www.vliz.be>.

For more information on the Flanders Marine Institute (e.g. membership, exchange of publications etc.), please contact:

Website: <http://www.vliz.be>

E-mail: info@vliz.be

Tel. +32-[0]59/34 21 30

Fax +32-[0]59/34 21 31

Dr. Jan Mees

Director

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)

Victorialaan 3

B-8400 Oostende, Belgium

For specific library services, please contact:

Jan Haspeslagh

Librarian

E-mail: jan.haspeslagh@vliz.be

Tel. +32-[0]59/34 21 37

Fax +32-[0]59/34 21 31

